

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, VE

SUBJECT: THE CTV AND ORIT

REF: MEXICO 13660

1. CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) PRESIDENT JOSE VARGAS TOLD LABATT ON OCTOBER 27 THAT THE CTV NO LONGER CONSIDERS ITSELF AFFILIATED WITH ORIT SINCE IT IS NOW OVER TWO YEARS BEHIND ON ITS DUES. VARGAS STATED THAT THE CTV HAS NO INTENTION OF MAKING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM ORIT "BECAUSE THIS WOULD SIMPLY HELP THE COMMUNISTS AND THE CHRISTIANSS". HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT CTV WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY FUTURE ORIT EVENTS, INCLUDING THE ORIT CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR MEXICO CITY NEXT SPRING (REFTEL). VARGAS STATED THAT THE CTV LEADERSHIP WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE WHOLE MATTER WITH AFL-CIO INTER-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE MCLELLAN DURING THE NOVEMBER SOLIDARITY GROUP VISIT.

2. LABATT ASKED VARGAS THE REASONS FOR THE CTV'S DECISION. THERE WERE NO NEW SPECIFICS BEYOND THE STATEMENT THAT "ORIT IS DEAD, IT DIED A NATURAL DEATH". THERE WAS AT LEAST SOME SENSE THAT THE CTV FEELS THAT THE CTM AND THE AFL-CIO HAVE NOT PAID ENOUGH ATTENTION TO CTV COMPLAINS-PARTICULARLY THE ORIT DECISION TO FILL THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S POSITION OVER CTV OBJECTIONS TWO YEARS AGO. LABATT POINTED OUT THAT THE CTV HAD BEEN GIVEN MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESENT A CONFIDENTIAL

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VENEZUELAN CANDIDATE FOR THE ORIT SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION BUT HAD NEVER DONE SO. VARGAS BRUSHED THIS OFF AND REITERATED THAT "ORIT IS DEAD".

3. VARGAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CTV EXPECTS TO REPLACE ITS ORIT RELATIONSHIP WITH INTENSIFIED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SUCH MOVEMENTS AS THE AFL-CIO, THE CTM AND THE COLUMBIAN UTC AND CTC.

4. COMMENT: THE CTV DECISION REGARDING ORIT IS PROBABLY NOT FINAL. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH MCLELLAN IN NOVEMBER.
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

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